



First United Methodist Church
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“The Spirit of Easter Continues!”

By Pastor Eun Ko

Dear families of FUMC of Tucson,

Christ is Risen. Christ is Risen indeed!

Just two days ago, we celebrated Easter with a worship service filled with joy and reverence.

But what does it truly mean to celebrate Easter?

We begin our church calendar with Advent and Christmas, followed by Epiphany, Lent, and Easter. In this journey, we remember how Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, offering grace freely to all. Yet, despite his message of love and salvation, humanity chose to persecute him, leading to his crucifixion. The pain, suffering, and death of Jesus were symbolized in the season of Lent. However, Easter reminds us that Jesus did not remain in death; he conquered it and triumphed over all trials and tests. Through his resurrection, Jesus offers us eternal life and fills us with the spirit of Easter – a spirit of hope, salvation, and promise.

Although the apostle Paul did not live during Jesus' time, his impact on Christianity and the world is profound. His theological reflections on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus have influenced every branch of the Christian faith. When we read Paul's letters, such as Romans,



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## The Spirit of Easter Continues! cont.

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1 and 2 Corinthians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, and others, we see his humanity shining through. Rev. Adam Hamilton, a pastor at the Church of the Resurrection in Kansas, describes Paul in his book "The Call" as a man with strong convictions who is aware of his critics and regularly defends himself against them.

One of Paul's defining characteristics is his ambition – an ambition for Jesus Christ, for the faith, and for spreading the Good News. As we reflect on Paul's ambition, let us consider how it might connect with our own stories or the stories of those around us. While ambition can sometimes lead to negative outcomes, let us take inspiration from Paul's example and live with ambition for Jesus Christ, for the faith, and for sharing the Good News every day.

“For I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel proclaimed by me is not of human origin; for I did not receive it from a human source, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.” (Galatians 1:11-12)

“형제들아 내가 너희에게 알게 하노니 내가 전한 복음은 사람의 뜻을 따라 된 것이 아니니라. 이는 내가 사람에게서 받은 것도 아니요 배운 것도 아니요 오직 예수 그리스도의 계시로 말미암은 것이라.”  
(갈라디아서 1장 11-12절)

Easter Sunday may be over, but the season of Easter continues. Let us live in the spirit of Easter, embracing the continuation of our faith journey.

With love and blessings,

Pastor Ko



## What's Happening at First Church of Tucson!

- Altar decorations



Left: Palm Sunday, center: Maundy Thursday, right: Easter Sunrise Service)

- Spring break at the University of Arizona

Korean young adults gathered and had a Korean BBQ dinner on March 7th in the Arizona room.



Left: Cooking the pork belly for the gathering, right: students enjoying the gathering during their spring break.

- Korean small group gathers for worship and fellowship once a month. They gathered on March 16th in the Carillon room.



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- “Snowbirds” went back to their own town. They will be missed until we meet again this fall.



Left: Jo & Bob from Illinois, right: Lisa & Candace from Chattanooga, TN.

- Holy Week and Easter Sunday

We hosted a Maundy Thursday service for Catalina UMC on March 28 at 5:30 pm, and joined their Good Friday service on March 29 at 7 pm.



Left: Maundy Thursday readers, center: soloist, right: Holy Communion)

- Easter Brunch



Left: Easter Brunch table plate, center: fellowship food table, right: table decorations)

(cont. pg 5)

- Easter Sunday Celebration



### Openings: A Writing Retreat for Connecting to Spirit Clarity and Others

<https://dscumc.org/event/hybrid-writing-retreat/>

April 6 @ 8:30 am - 4:30 pm MST – The retreat begins at 9 AM and concludes at 4:30 PM.

*The ancient spiritual practice of writing connects us with God, brings clarity and discernment, and offers a way to minister to others. During this retreat, Psalms of praise and lament will serve as prompts for writing, as will selections from contemporary poetry and prayer. Resources for journaling will be shared, as well as some ideas about writing for worship and for publication. Additional resources for continuing practice and education will also be offered. The goal is to connect you to God and to guide and encourage you in your writing.*

Retired United Methodist pastor Larry J. Peacock will be leading this workshop at Saint Francis in the Foothills UMC. Registration begins at 8:30 AM, MST. Other locations where people can gather together at a church that will be connecting to Zoom are Green Valley UMC, North Scottsdale UMC, and First UMC of Yuma. People will also be able to connect privately on their own computer from wherever they are.

The fee is \$50 at the main in-person event to cover the cost of food and support staff. Attendance via Zoom-only is \$25. Please note, SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE; for scholarship info, please contact Rev. Michael Wilkerson at [mikewilkerson@dscumc.net](mailto:mikewilkerson@dscumc.net).

## LSM Introduction to Lay Ministry: the Basic Course at St. John's UMC - Tucson

by Gretchen Lofgren | Jan 31, 2024 | Lay Servant Ministries, South District Newsletter

<https://dscumc.org/blog/2024/01/31/lsm-introduction-to-lay-ministry-the-basic-course-at-st-johns-umc-tucson/>

The South District of the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church is pleased to announce it will be offering:

**What:** Introduction to Lay Ministry: The Basic Course

**When:** Saturday, **May 4, 2024, from 9AM–3PM** and Saturday, **May 11, 2024, from 9AM–3:30PM.**

**Where:** St John's United Methodist Church, 60 W Veterans Blvd, Tucson AZ 85713

**Class Size Limit:** 15 participants

This is an introductory course for Lay Servant Ministries and is foundational for all courses in Lay Servant Ministries. The text *Lay Servant Ministries – Basic Course* by Sandy Zeigler Jackson & Brian Jackson is required reading for this program.

The cost of this course is **\$15.00** and is payable upon registration by:

- (1) Credit or debit card – there is a **\$1.00** processing fee.
- (2) Check – by sending payment to: **DSCUMC, c/o Conference Treasurer, PO Box 32830, Phoenix AZ 85064**, with instructions to deposit into the South District LSM account. Include a copy of your registration with the check. No cash or checks will be handled at the class site. Do not mail to the District Director.
- (3) Prepaid credit available (verify with your District Director)

Once you register for this course, you will receive a confirmation email with a link to the book and other information.

The registration deadline is **April 26, 2024**. If you have further questions, you may contact Gretchen Lofgren, the South District LSM Co-Director, at: [glofgren22@gmail.com](mailto:glofgren22@gmail.com)

Register here: (short link) <https://shorturl.at/civX2> or (original link)

<https://dscumc.org/event/lsm-introduction-to-lay-ministry-the-basic-course-at-st-johns-umc-tucson/2024-05-04/>

### Don't forget to take your Easter flowers home!

Thank you to everyone who purchased an Easter lily in memory or honor of their friends and family. The flowers have beautified our Sanctuary, and now it's time for them to beautify your home. You may pick up your fragrant blooms after the Sunday worship service.

THIS WEEK'S  
ANNOUNCEMENTS & GATHERINGS

**10AM SUNDAY SERVICE**

Join us in person for our English-language service! Or you can watch it live online at <https://www.youtube.com/c/TucsonFirstUMC>.

**한국어 사역**

주일 오전 11시 30분에 한국어 예배가 현장예배와 온라인예배로 진행됩니다. 기도와 참여 부탁드립니다.

**WEEKDAY GATHERINGS**

**Women on a Spiritual Quest (WSQ)**

-WSQ meets on Mondays at 4:30PM in the library.

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**Narcotics Anonymous (Underground)**

-NA meets at 7:30PM on Monday evenings in the Arizona room.

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**All God's Creation (AGC)**

-AGC meets on Tuesdays at 3PM over Zoom.

[Zoom ID: 994 3610 1655](#) [Passcode: 6226481](#)

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**Chancel Choir**

-Practice is on Wednesdays at 6:30PM in the Sanctuary.

-A shorter rehearsal is on Sundays at 9AM.

-Join us in making "a joyful noise!"

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**Progressive Book Study (PBS)**

-PBS meets on Thursdays at 3PM over Zoom.

The current book is "Jesus: Uncovering the Life, Teachings, and Relevance of a Religious Revolutionary" by Marcus J. Borg.

Questions? Call Rev. Gaston at (520) 323-1611.

[Zoom ID: 980 1573 8087](#) [Passcode: 6226481](#)

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**Cocaine Anonymous (CA)**

-This support group meets at 7:30PM on Friday evenings in the Arizona room.



**We Need Your Help in the Kitchen!**

We would greatly appreciate having a few more volunteers in the kitchen for food prep before the 10AM worship service and for clean-up after Fellowship hour. The work is not difficult at all, but it can be time-consuming with so few people doing it.

Thank you to everyone who has helped out so far! Everyone at First Church appreciates your gifts of time, effort, food, and monetary contributions.

## **GIVING TO FIRST CHURCH TUCSON**



When you attend Sunday services in person, the offering box is in the narthex for your generous giving. Head to our website [www.firstchurchtucson.org/give](http://www.firstchurchtucson.org/give) to give online. As always, you can mail in checks to the church office at the address printed on the front page. Alternatively, have your IRA advisor automatically make payments from your IRA.

**When we give to God from our hearts, it is always enough.** We see you, and we thank you for your commitment to making a difference in our community.

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## **PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY**

We offer our prayers for those in our community who are suffering, who are physically, mentally, & emotionally unwell, and for those caring for them.



We offer our prayers for these sister faith communities:

Christ Church UM, Tucson  
Community UMC, Bowie  
Duncan UMC

If you have a prayer request you would like to share in the Digest, please contact the church office at [office@firstchurchtucson.org](mailto:office@firstchurchtucson.org) or (520) 622-6481.

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## **BIRTHDAYS**

Justin Havins - Apr 2

David Carrico - Apr 7

Beth Walkup - Apr 7

Deullae Min - Apr 8

Denise Grzywacz - Apr 9

Angelica O'Connell-Lange - Apr 15

Kelly Lee - Apr 16

Dan Kaiser - Apr 17

Jae Hammond - Apr 19

Nancy Vorres - Apr 20

Brooklynn Dominguez - Apr 25

Miwon Lee - Apr 27

*(If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please let us know so we can update our records!)*

### **April Meet'n'Eat**

This is a fellowship time to visit with each other and see old and new friends. *All are welcome, everyone is invited!*

The next Meet'n'Eat is on **Friday, April 12th at 11:30 AM** at the Olive Garden on the northeast corner of Oracle/Wetmore ([300 W Wetmore Rd, Tucson, AZ 85705](http://www.olivegarden.com)).

If you're interested in coming, please notify the church office or Shirley Murray at (520) 297-4796 by Wednesday so she can reserve enough seats at the restaurant.



# Animal & Environmental Holidays for April 2024

By Diane & Victoria Russell



April is  
**EARTH  
MONTH**

## April is Earth Month

Earth Month has been celebrated annually since 1970 to raise environmental awareness on how to protect the earth's natural resources. This year's theme is "Conserving Every Ecosystem, Caring for Every Creature."



## April is Keep America Beautiful Month

Keep America Beautiful month was established in 1982 when cities across America celebrated beautification events to help promote awareness and resources about littering and recycling. Ways to participate include picking up one piece of litter a day or planting native plants/trees.



## April is National Pet First Aid Awareness Month

This month is dedicated to teaching pet owners the basic knowledge to help save their pets' lives if the need arises. Prepare and have emergency contact numbers ready, purchase/make a Pet First Aid Kit, take a Pet First Aid course or purchase books.



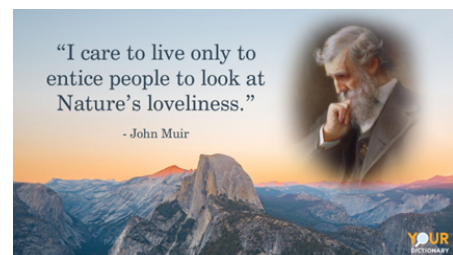
## April 1st-7th – Be Kind to Spiders Week

There are over 50,000 different species of spiders in the world and only about 1% of them can have adverse effects on humans. They are important to the ecosystem by keeping pests away from your house and garden. So be kind, capture them in a jar, and release them safely outside.



## April 3rd – World Aquatic Animal Day

This 5th annual celebration is to raise awareness for aquatic animals and the challenges and threats they face. The goal of this day is to create laws, policies, and conservation efforts to help protect them. Some threats include overfishing, hunting, climate change, and pollution.



## April 21st – John Muir Day

It is a day to celebrate and honor the late John Muir who was an advocate for the preservation of the wilderness. He was a naturalist, author, environmental philosopher, botanist, and zoologist. He is known as the "Father of the National Parks" and co-founded the Sierra Club.



**April 24th – Stop Food Waste**

Created in 2017 by the Compass Group to raise global awareness about food waste. According to the FDA, each year the USA wastes about 30-40% of the food supply and about 80 billion pounds of food ends up in landfills. It is sad to waste food when millions of people are hungry.



**April 27th – World Veterinary Day**

Created in 2000 by the World Veterinary Association to celebrate the men and women who have dedicated their lives to helping animals with their health and well-being around the world. This year's theme is “Veterinarians are essential health workers.”



**April 28th–May 5th – Stewardship Week**

The 69th annual celebration to promote conservation awareness of our natural resources and to support preservation efforts. This year’s theme is “May the Forest Be with You, Always”. By promoting the responsible use of our natural resources in our forests for future generations.



**April 27th – International Hyena Day**

Hyenas have long gotten a bad reputation due to cultural beliefs and biases. This day is to celebrate hyenas and to also advocate to change these outdated cultural beliefs. There are four species of hyena that live in Africa and Asia. Some are threatened by loss of habitat and hunting.



First Church Tucson is an inclusive multi-ethnic faith community and a reconciling congregation of the United Methodist Church. Established in 1879 as the first Protestant church in our city, First Church Tucson continues to pave the way in creating a faith community that embraces all peoples into the grace of God.

As a courageous family of faith, we celebrate the diversity of all God’s children, welcome everyone to share in God’s love and grace, and offer a sanctuary of hope. We seek to be in ministry with all God’s people, regardless of gender, race, age, class, ethnicity, culture, country of origin, ability/disability, gender identity, and sexual orientation. We continue to work towards building a loving and faithful community in Tucson, and welcome all of you to be part of it.